

NSC BRIEFING

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ALL-AFRICAN PEOPLES' CONFERENCE

- I. Non-governmental All-African Peoples' Conference held in Accra last week (8-13 Dec) at instigation of Ghana's ambitious Prime Minister Nkrumah provided African nationalism with significant new psychological stimulus.
 - A. This first gathering of kind certain to be regarded as milestone in African liberation movement.
 1. Participants included some 300 delegates representing about 60 nationalist organizations in most of Africa's 40 dependent and 10 independent territories. Also present were several hundred observers, visitors, and reporters including a number from US and the USSR.
 - B. Establishment in Accra of permanent secretariat formally recognizes political center gravity today's "African personality" and marks coming of age of full-blown African movement, separate from but still allied with its Asian counterpart.
 1. Also confronts UAR with unwanted rival to its own "peoples" gambit.
- II. Conference pointed up many underlying differences among Africans which impede attainment of Pan Africanists' United States of Africa dream or even of more limited regional federation.
 - A. Cleavage between representatives from French and those from British territories particularly marked.
- III. Conference produced expected statements against colonial powers, white settlers, and "tribalism" and for the immediate independence of all dependent territories.

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- A. But vigorous efforts of UAR-led extremists to control meeting and dictate highly inflammatory resolutions appear to have largely failed and at same time alienated Nkrumah and other responsible leaders.
 - B. These extremists, supported by numerous individuals from Sino-Soviet bloc present in various capacities, did succeed in including oblique endorsement of use of violence, where "democratic means" not available.
 - C. But at insistence Nkrumah and other moderates, emphasis was on peaceful tactics; civil disobedience and economic boycotts especially recommended.
- IV. Britain's Kenya colony may be first important testing ground such tactics.
- A. African nationalists there led by dynamic, young (29), spell-binding but essentially moderate labor leader Tom Mboya, likely to launch campaign this type in next two months.
 - 1. Mboya chaired Accra conference and thereby added appreciably to his stature.
 - B. Any success gained by such means in one area certain to lead to adoption elsewhere.
 - C. Where this approach frustrated, pressures will mount for resort to more violent tactics and collaboration with external extremists.
 - 1. Nasir regime, already supporting dissident extremists in French Camerons, reportedly make offer at Accra of material aid for an armed revolt in Portuguese Angola.

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